

What's New in the MPDC

AUGUST 5, 2002

THOUSANDS OF DC RESIDENTS EXPECTED TO TAKE PART IN NATIONAL NIGHT OUT ON AUGUST 6TH

Looking for a way to be a part of neighborhood safety throughout the year? Get involved in "Policing for Prevention." Learn how by calling the Community Partnership Section at (202) 727-1585 or go to:

mpdc.dc.gov/pfp/involved.shtm

Thousands of DC residents, business owners, civic leaders and young people are expected to take part in the 19th annual National Night Out against crime, on Tuesday, August 6th. The District's celebration of National Night Out will officially kick off at 5 pm, with a ceremony outside the Brentwood Recreation Center, in the 2300 block of 15th Street, NE, in the Fifth Police District. Mayor Williams, Chief Ramsey and other community and government leaders will launch DC's observance of this national crime

prevention event. Besides the kickoff ceremony, communities across the District will observe NNO with block parties, neighborhood cookouts, citizen patrols, candle-light vigils, and crime prevention seminars and demonstrations during the afternoon and evening hours. Among the major events are a picnic in the park across from the 1D-1 Substation, a cook-out and open house at the 2D station, a block party in the 700 block of Park Road, NW (outside the soon-to-be-opened 4D-1 Substation), and a child safety event at CW Harris Elementary School in 6D. For a list of National Night Out events in DC, call the Community Outreach Section at (202) 727-0783 or click on:

Even if you can't participate in an organized National Night Out event, DC residents are still encouraged to turn on exterior lights and spend some time outside on the evening of August 6, as a show of solidarity against crime and for neighborhood safety.

mpdc.dc.gov/serv/programs/nno_2002.shtm

CHIEF RAMSEY ANNOUNCES COMMAND-LEVEL CHANGES

On July 29, Chief Ramsey announced three command-level changes in the MPDC, including new commanders for the Second and Fourth Police Districts. Jeffrey Moore has been named commander of 2D, a position he had held on an acting basis since June 2002. Moore is a 29-year veteran of the MPDC, having served most recently as Inspector in charge of Recruiting. Ramsey also promoted Larry McCoy to commander of 4D. Since joining the MPDC in August 1978, McCoy has held a variety of field positions, most recently as a captain in the Special Operations Division, which supports patrol operations by developing special tactics and deploying specially trained personnel in unusual law enforcement situations and events. Former 4D Commander Cathy Lanier has been laterally reassigned to Commander of SOD. Lanier joined the MPDC in 1990 and quickly rose through the ranks, having served as Inspector in charge of the Narcotics Branch prior to her two-year tenure as 4D Commander. Former SOD Commander Jose Acosta was recently promoted to Assistant Chief in charge of Regional Operations Command-East.

To review the MPDC organizational change, click on:

mpdc.dc.gov/about/org/orgchart.shtm

FOLLOWING AN UNUSUALLY VIOLENT JULY, MPDC TAKES STEPS TO ADDRESS THE VIOLENCE

Chief Ramsey announced this past week that the MPDC is taking additional steps to reduce violence in the city, following a particularly deadly month in July. DC recorded 33 homicides during the month – the highest total since June 1997, when there were also 33 murders, and January 1997, when there were 38. Through the end of July, homicides in DC were up 34 percent compared with first seven months of 2001; there were 142 homicides this year, compared with 106 last year. DC ended 2001 with 233 murders, down nearly 4 percent from the prior year's total. Ramsey said the recent spike in lethal violence is not limited to specific neighborhoods, nor can it be attributed to a single motive. Approximately 26 percent of this year's murders were connected to illegal drugs; another 21 percent involved arguments. Overall, 75 percent of all homicides this year have been committed with firearms. Ramsey said the MPDC is targeting hot spots of violence using regular PSA officers, as well as Summer Mobile Force, Narcotics Strike Force and other specialized units. The Chief is meeting with his Assistant Chiefs and other police officials each morning in the Joint Operations Command Center to review maps and other information about crime over the past 48 hours. Deployment and tactical decisions are being made based on these daily sessions.

According to Chief Ramsey, MPDC detectives have potential suspects in approximately 75 percent of the open homicides in DC, but lack solid information from witnesses who are willing to come forward. The MPDC has an extensive witness protection program, and it offers a \$10,000 reward to anyone who provides information that leads to an arrest and conviction in any homicide committed in DC. Learn more at:

mpdc.dc.gov/serv/solvers/mostwanted/mostwanted.shtm

For an up-to-date count on homicides in DC, go to:

mpdc.dc.gov/info/districts/crstats.shtm

RESIDENT ALERT: WATCH OUT FOR “RELATIVE IN DISTRESS” SCAM

For tips on recognizing and preventing other cons and swindles, click on:

mpdc.dc.gov/info/consumer/avoidswindles.shtm

The MPDC warns residents to be on the lookout for a new scam that has been perpetrated in various parts of the country, including here in the DC area. It's known as the “Relative in Distress” scam, and it works like this: The victim receives a telephone call from someone claiming to be a “grandchild” or other distant relative, or a friend of that “relative.” The caller states that the “relative” is in legal, medical or financial trouble and needs money – usually in the thousands of dollars – to cover costs for bail, emergency medical treatment or debts. The caller usually tells the victim that a “friend” will come by to pick up the money. This fraud is frequently targeted at senior citizens, and may be supported by con artists who are using the Internet to gather information about elderly women living in local jurisdictions. If you are approached with this “con” or know someone who has been, please contact the MPDC Financial Crimes and Fraud Unit right away, at (202) 727-4159.

Information, ideas or comments about this service?

E-mail Kevin Morison, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov.

Would you like to have this information emailed to you? Just go to our web site and register with crimereports.com.

METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT WEB PAGE
MPDC.DC.GOV